

NEW MILITIA LAW FAVORED BY GUARD

Dick Provisions Being Put Into Effect by Brigade.

CHANGE IN ORGANIZATION

Officers and Men of Local Battalions
Appreciate New Status Conferred
on Them—Citizen Soldiers Now a
Reserve for the Regular Army.
Work Will Be Improved.

While the battalions and separate organizations of the National Guard of the District are being subjected to a rigid annual inspection by officers detailed from the regular army, the commanding general and his staff at militia headquarters are busily engaged working out the details of a plan to put into immediate effect the recently enacted militia law of the District.

These regulations are being drawn up after consultations with the commanding officers of the infantry troops and separate organizations, and when completed they will be forwarded to the War Department, where they will be sent to the President for his approval.

After receiving the sanction of President Taft, they will be promulgated as the law governing the organized militia of the District, and will make it conform in practically every detail to the Dick law now governing the regular army.

Will Bring Many Changes.

The operation of the present law, which is already in force, and which will be added to by the regulations of the President, will bring about many changes in the present organization of the guard. New companies will be organized, and some of the present ones may be consolidated. Among the commissioned officers there will be numerous promotions and retirements and some resignations.

It is not the purpose of militia headquarters to make these changes revolutionary. There will be no upsetting of tearing down of what has already been accomplished, but there will be a general upbuilding along rational lines, definitely laid down in the law and regulations.

The new law makes the National Guard of the District virtually a reserve of the regular establishment. The new status, thus conferred upon the citizen soldiers of the District, brings with it enlarged responsibilities and a far higher standard of required efficiency.

Militia headquarters will make every effort to impress this fact upon the citizen soldiers and enlisted men of the guard, and to enlist them in the new organization. The commanding general says he will not demand more work from his officers, but will insist upon better work. By a process of elimination only those officers and noncommissioned officers who are able to play the game will be retained.

The provisions of the new act, together with the regulations of the President supplementary to it, will soon be published in general orders. It is expected that the militia of the District will be commanded by a brigadier general, appointed by the President. He holds office until his successor is appointed, but may be removed by the President at any time. His staff will consist of an adjutant general, with rank of lieutenant colonel, an inspector general, a quartermaster general, a commissary general, a chief of ordnance, a chief engineer, a surgeon general, a medical department, a pay department, a corps of engineers, an ordnance department, a signal corps, a corps of coast artillery, two regiments and a separate battalion of infantry, four companies of coast artillery, a troop of cavalry, and one battery of field artillery.

The President will issue orders providing for the organization of each of the departments, and also providing for the recruiting of the new organization. The provisions in the act and recommended by the commanding general.

The four companies of coast artillery will be the first of the new organizations to be recruited. Preliminary work on this organization will begin at once. It is the intention of the commanding general to have this battalion of coast artillery recruited from men not now in the guard, who are over the age of twenty, and whose business connections in Washington will not permit them to absent themselves for a long time from the city. They will be mostly married men in business life or in the government departments, who in case of war would be sent to Fort Hunt and Fort Washington to re-enforce or relieve the regular troops stationed there. As soon as suitable quarters can be found to house the men and store the fire-control instruments and other material that will be issued to the battalion, its recruitment will begin.

The coast artillery companies will be sent from time to time during the year to Forts Hunt and Washington, remaining from Friday night to Sunday morning, and drilling with the guns that they will be permanently assigned to them. They will not attend the regular encampments, but will be sent to the forts for about a week some time next August.

In recruiting this battalion there will be no transfers from other organizations in the guard. It is thought that many men who have had experience in infantry drill and who are over the age of twenty will be found to be the best material for this battalion. The signal and engineer companies will be the next to be organized.

Signal Corps Mounted.
In the opinion of the commanding general, the signal company will be the "corps elite" of the District Guard. At least a third of its members will be mounted, and the company will be composed of the best soldiers in the brigade. Every member of the company will be expected to understand visual signaling, telegraphy, and the general principles of wireless.

The company will be an entirely new organization, and will absorb the present signal corps now under the command of Lieut. Charles M. Putnam. In connection with the new signal work four men in every company will be expected to have a knowledge of visual signals, and the qualifications of these men will be taken into consideration in determining the efficiency of the organization to which they belong.

The cavalry troop will be the last of the new organizations to be recruited. Nothing will be done on it until further appropriations have been obtained from Congress, and it may not be formed until the new army has become a reality.

The officers of the staff departments, created by the present act will be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the commanding general and subject to examination. Any vacancies afterward in the infantry, cavalry, artillery, or other separate organizations will be filled by promotion according to seniority, from the next lower grade in the separate organization, or other organization in which it occurs.

Second lieutenants will be selected exclusively from the enlisted men of the brigade. Competitive examinations will be held from time to time as the vacancies occur, and these noncommissioned officers who demonstrate the greatest efficiency will receive the commissions.

Elections of officers, as well as the appointment of outsiders to commissions in the brigade, are a thing of the past. All the noncoms in each regiment will be entitled to compete for any second lieutenant vacancy in their regiment. Seniority is not to be the majority factor. Senior majors to the lieutenant colonel and the senior lieutenant colonel to the command of the regiment. Staff officers on the general staff will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the commanding general.

Provision for the removal of inefficient officers has been made by permitting the commanding general, whenever in his opinion an officer has become incapacitated for the performance of duty for any reason whatsoever, to submit the name of this officer to the Secretary of War, who will order him before a board of examination to determine his qualifications.

Retirement of Officers.
Officers who have served for ten years or more may be placed on a retired list, and any officer serving continuously in one grade for ten years, or who has rendered particularly meritorious service, may be retired by the President with increased rank of one grade.

All officers in the active list are required at the age of sixty-four, with increased rank at the discretion of the President. It is thought that these officers will take advantage of the ten-year clause to seek voluntary retirement. No official list of those who will be retired because of the age limit, has yet been made.

It is rumored among the officers of the guard that this provision will apply to Col. M. Emmet Urell, commanding the Second Regiment; Maj. George Henderson, commanding the Third Regiment; and Maj. James E. Bell, commanding the Fourth Regiment. Maj. Henry H. Parmenter, chief of ordnance, and Lieut. W. Milton Farrow, inspector of rifle practice, of the First Battalion, Second Regiment.

ADMITS CONFERENCE

Rev. James Cannon, Jr., Issues Open Letter.

DEFENDS MARTIN MEETING

Discussed with the Virginia Senator
Certain Features of the Report of
the Legislative Committee of the
Anti-Saloon League—Did It for
Interest of the League.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Richmond, Va., March 13.—A political sensation was created here to-day by an open letter of Rev. James Cannon, Jr., recognized as the head of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia, in which Dr. Cannon admits in substance the allegations that he saw Senator Thomas S. Martin, reputed to be the leader of the Democratic State organization, in Washington and discussed with him the character of the legislative committee's report which was made to the Anti-Saloon League convention at Norfolk.

This letter of Dr. Cannon created a stir in political circles, and will have an important bearing upon the gubernatorial situation.

The report of the legislative committee of the Anti-Saloon League came out strongly for the election of the policy of local option in fighting the saloon in Virginia. The report was so strong in advocating that principle that it was really sensational, in view of the fact that 90 per cent of Virginia is "dry," and many expected that the league would declare for the final battle on the saloon with a State-wide prohibition campaign.

In Interest of League.
In defending his visit to Senator Martin and his discussion with the Senator as to certain proposed legislation, Dr. Cannon says:

"He has the past, and he expects in the future to consult with men in office of life, and the fact that the paper calls these men 'machine politicians' will not prevent him from trying to obtain their influence and help for the passage of such legislation as he believes will be helpful for the cause of the league."

In the course of his statement Dr. Cannon says: "As a matter of fact, Dr. Cannon did not make a trip to Washington for the special purpose of seeing Senator Martin. Dr. Cannon was in Washington on other educational workers of the country to attend the inauguration of Dr. E. A. Noble as president of the Woman's College of Baltimore, which took place on February 20. On his way to Baltimore Dr. Cannon stopped over in Washington and went to see Senator Martin, but did not find him at his office, and went to Baltimore without seeing him. The next day, the 21st, Dr. Cannon called upon Senator Martin by phone, and found out where he would likely be found during the day."

"Dr. Cannon left Baltimore at 2 p. m. and arrived in Washington at 3:30 p. m. He went to the Capital building, found that the Senate was in executive session concerning the appointment of Dr. Crum, and it was some time before he could communicate with Senator Martin. His interview was somewhat hurried, as I was obliged to leave for Richmond at 5 o'clock. I discussed with him freely and frankly, as I had done with others, as I would have done with any other member of the legislature, the legislation which the league asked of the next general assembly."

Shipment of Liquor Discussed.
"I discussed with him particularly, however, paragraph 12 of the report, which pertained especially to the regulation of the shipment of liquor into dry territory. Why did I discuss this section especially with him? Because it was the one section of the report which was largely dependent upon the action of Congress. On January 7 I had written to Senator Martin, calling his attention to the provisions which had been proposed as amendments to the penal code concerning the transportation of intoxicating liquors through the mails, and in C. O. D. packages to fictitious persons, and had asked for copies of the bills."

What Martin Says.
"Replying to my letter Senator Martin said: 'Legislation such as you indicate would seem to be wise and proper. Certainly intoxicating liquors should not be transported in the mails of the United States, and it seems to me that this provision might be very helpful in preventing the transportation of liquor in violation of law. Where liquor is transported for a lawful purpose, certainly there can be no objection to having the bona fide name of the consignee on the shipping papers. I will be glad to favor legislation of that sort.'"

Dr. Cannon's letter does not say whether the legislation referred to by the Senator was in the nature of a suggestion or was national or State legislation.

BOY SHOTS ANOTHER.
Quarrel Results in Serious Affray
Between Lads.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Cumberland, Md., March 13.—Roy Robinson, aged twelve years, was shot in the abdomen this evening at South Cumberland by a lad of the same age named Powell, who is at large. The shooting, it is said, was the result of a quarrel yesterday. Powell is charged with having threatened to shoot Robinson. The wounded boy is in the Allegany Hospital, where an operation was performed. His condition is critical and little hope is held for his recovery.

Purported Confession Denied.
Special to The Washington Herald.
Lynchburg, Va., March 13.—The report some time ago from Amherst County that a negro who had been shot while trying to hold up a rob and a white man had confessed on his death bed that he murdered the white man, was denied today by the Amherst County Sheriff, J. B. Moore, a Chesapeake and Ohio conductor, near Colton's Falls on November 15 last is claimed to be incorrect. Members of the family of the murdered man deny that such a confession was made, and they believe that the report was made to stop investigations which have been carried on since the murder.

Land Fraud Conference.
Land fraud cases were the subject of a secret conference yesterday at the Department of Justice between Attorney General Wickham, Secretary of the Interior, General Attorney General Woodruff, and J. F. Vail, counsel for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. After the conference it was said that all parties had agreed that no information regarding it would be given out.

Repeats Roosevelt Prophecy.
New York, March 13.—The Schoolmasters' Club, 300 strong, got together to-night at the Hotel St. Denis, Eleventh street and Broadway, to eat, talk, and listen to Dr. Frederick Starr, professor of the University of Chicago. Dr. Starr repeated the prophecy that President Roosevelt would not return alive from his African trip.

Always the Same.
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612 F Street N. W. Phone Main 1141.
Specially Private Delivered.

REFEREE SYSTEM TO GET FINAL BLOW

Continued from Page Two.

LYNCHBURG MAN SENT TO THE DEATH CHAIR.

KILLED HIS SISTER'S LOVER

VERDICT WAS IN NATURE OF SURPRISE, AS A HUNG JURY WAS EXPECTED.

NOTION FOR NEW TRIAL IS MADE, WHICH WILL BE ARGUED MARCH 30.

PRISONER DISPLAYS LITTLE EMOTION.

DAWSON'S VETO INVALIDATED.

WEST VIRGINIA COURT UPHOLDS CHARTER BILL OF CHARLESTON.

NEGRO SHOTS UP NORFOLK.

COLLISION ON SEABOARD.

ONE KILLED AND SEVERAL INJURED AT COLON, N. C.

BURGARS GET TEN YEARS.

MEN WHO TERRORIZED PAINTS OF WEST VIRGINIA ARE CONVICTED.

STEINHEIL CASE RENEWED.

WIDOW IS CHARGED WITH KILLING HUSBAND AND MOTHER.

REGISTERED AT HOTELS.

LEGISLATION CUT OFF BY TRAIN.

PARCELS POST DEBATED.

EXCHANGE BUILDING SOLD AT ROANOKE.

LAND FRAUD CASES.

REPEATS ROOSEVELT PROPHECY.

ALWAYS THE SAME.

THARP'S BERKELEY RYE.

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WILL FINISH HIS MESSAGE.

President to Resume Work on Document This Morning.

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